

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
ROBERT MONRO
CHERYL RUSSELL
JON SCHOUEL
COLIN SEELY
PALMER SPARKMAN
HENRY STRAUSS
MICHAEL WALLACE



GREEN'S LEDGE LIGHT

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC. COMMISSION.
ROBERT PRICE, HARBOR MASTER
CAPT GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

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OCT - 8 2009
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
DARIEN CT.

Minutes of October 7, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 in Room 213 by Chairman McDonald.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Kemp, Monroe, Russell, Seely, and Wallace, plus Ex-Officio Member Price (Harbormaster). Commissioner Raleigh joined the meeting in progress. Commissioners Schoudel, Sparkman and Strauss were absent.

Michael Wallace was welcomed to the meeting, in recognition of his recent appointment to the Commission.

The minutes of the June 3, 2009 Meeting were reviewed and approved.

The schedule of meetings for 2010 was reviewed and approved. The schedule calls for eight monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of January, July, August and September. Meetings may be called, or canceled, depending on the presence or absence of pressing matters. Meetings will be at Darien Town Hall, Room 213 at 7:30 pm. Meetings will be held on Feb. 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, October 6, Nov. 3, and December 1.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported on activities on behalf of the Commission since the last meeting:

- Recognition of the need for fall maintenance of boat moorings, to include inspecting bridles for chafe, and the placement and condition of chafing gear (as per a message sent out by Noroton Yacht Club).
- The Harbor Ordinances have been approved at the September 28, 2009 meeting of the RTM
- The Norwalk Harbor Management Commission publishes a newsletter twice a year. (Further information is available at www.norwalkct.org/harborcomm)
- On May 26, 2009 the Board of Selectmen enacted the "Resolution Establishing An Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters." A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes. It was noted that this resolution calls for the expiration of all Commissioners' terms on December 31, 2009.
- The Boat Club is considering the establishment of a pump-out station in conjunction with the hook-up of the Club to the local sewer line.

Harbor Master's Report

The Harbor Master reported that the boating season has concluded satisfactorily, with the following notes:

- Water quality tests conducted by the Health Commissioner turned out satisfactorily at the major beaches and offshore. No close-in testing was conducted (Holly Pond, Scotts Cove).
- There are several pre-approved applications for docks that appear to be in order, and not of extreme length or size.
- The waiting list has been resolved due to approximately 24 people not renewing their permits.
- The problem with multiple boats rafting up in Zieglers' Cove has not continued.

Shellfish Report

Bud Raleigh, Shellfish Manager, reported that the issue of the boundaries of shellfish areas to the west of Pratt Island has continued since the last meeting. There has been research of shellfish leases and property boundaries, with reference to records dating from the 1800's. The representative of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture has been helpful in preparing a revised map of the beds and lease areas, and this revised map is expected to be available very shortly. Based on this map the arrangements made with Joseph A. Buzzeo will be reviewed, and possibly modified.

Other Business

Chairman McDonald provided an update on issues discussed at a meeting of the Long Island Sound Study concerning wildlife. All Connecticut waters have been declared a "No Discharge Zone," while New York has taken the route of declaring only its major harbors as such. This issue is becoming contentious between the environmental groups of the two states.

The draft document "Managing Darien's Coastal Resources" was distributed for review and comment. Commissioner Jewett will be assembling a further draft with the assistance of several Commissioners who have volunteered. It was noted that this document will be of particular value in providing an orientation to elected officials as well as the public.

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study is working to keep the dredging disposal sites open, so that the maintenance costs of recreational harbors may be contained.

The Chairman provided updates on the clean-water implications of boat-bottom paint regulations by the CT-DEP, and the CT-DEP's moves toward authorizing boating education by internet-based training programs.

Commissioner Kemp reported on violations of regulations concerning jet-ski speed in the vicinity of the shore in sheltered areas of Holly Pond, and that this problem was appropriately resolved by talking to the offenders, and notifying the Darien Marine Police of the matter.

The Chairman distributed a copy of the "Darien Coastal Waters Issues (4th Draft – 12/04/08) for review, and possible inclusion in the document under development: "Managing Darien's Coastal Resources."

The Commission requested the Chairman to seek clarification of the status of the Harbor Master under the new charter for the Commission. While the resolution states that the Harbormaster is to be an ex-officio non voting member, it is believed that his previous status as a voting member is most useful to the Commission.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Commissioner Russell read a brief statement announcing her intention to resign from the Commission for personal reasons, effective October, 8, 2009. It was noted that Commissioner Russell had served on the Commission from its inception 17 years ago, and that she had made many valuable contributions to the Commission over that span. Her resignation was accepted by the Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday November 4, 2009 in room 213, Town Hall, at 7:30 pm...

Respectfully submitted,

Frank B. Kemp
Clerk

*Resolution Establishing An
Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters*

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen that an Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters be formed for the following purposes:

- 1. Assist the Board of Selectmen in the performance of its responsibilities pursuant to Chapter XIV of the Town Charter.*
- 2. Advise the Board of Selectmen of any recommended changes to the Town boating ordinance as described in Chapter 78.*
- 3. Advise the Board of Selectmen concerning protection and the use of Darien's coastal waters and shellfishing until such time as a Shellfish Commission is formed.*
- 4. Accept reports and suggestions from the Harbormaster.*
- 5. Receive reports and letters from the public pertaining to Darien's waters.*
- 6. Consult with the Darien Police Department on specific problems and work with the Police Department, Fire Department, Coast Guard and Harbormaster in promoting boating safety.*
- 7. Carry out such other assignments as may be assigned to it from time to time by the Board of Selectmen.*
- 8. Provide the Board of Selectmen with progress reports as necessary and an annual report of the Commission's Activities.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for terms expiring on December 31, 2009 with the following representations:

*9 At Large Members
1 Boat Club Member
1 Noroton Yacht Club Member*

And with the following to be ex-officio, non voting members: the Harbormaster, the Deputy Harbormaster, a representative of the Darien Police Department and a representative of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Enacted by the Board of Selectmen on 5/26/09.

October 7, 2009

To: Mr. McDonald, Chairman, Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

Due to personal reasons, I do not feel I will be able to continue to participate as a working member of the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters, in the coming year. Therefore, it is with great regret I am resigning from this Commission effective October 8, 2009.

Cheryl Russell

Cc: Mrs. Klein, First Selectman